

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 08126 171103Z

10

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /046 W  
----- 015727

P R 170957Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3423

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8126

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, KS, UR

SUBJECT: ROK CONTACTS WITH THE USSR-UN ASSOCIATION FEDERATION

REF: (A) SEOUL 7641 (DTG 300541Z SEP 75 NOTAL)

(B) SEOUL 7693 (DTG 010612Z OCT 75 NOTAL)

(C) SEOUL 7777 (DTG 020910Z OCT 75 NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ROK DELEGATION TO WORLD FEDERATION OF UN ASSOCIATIONS ASSEMBLY IN MOSCOW VIEWS SOVIET VISA APPROVAL AS CONSEQUENCE OF PRESSURE FROM FEDERATION LEADERS, NOT SIGN OF SOVIET INTEREST IN IMPROVED RELATIONS. CONTACT WITH SOVIETS IN MOSCOW WAS CORDIAL, REVEALED SOME SOVIET DISLIKE OF NORTH KOREANS, AND MAY HAVE MODESTLY ADVANCED ROK-SOVIET RELATIONS, IF ROK NEWSPAPER STORIES DO NOT SOUR ATMOSPHERE. END SUMMARY.

1. PROFESSOR KIM SANG-JUN, OF SOGANG UNIVERSITY, DESCRIBED SOUTH KOREAN DELEGATION'S EXPERIENCE IN CONNECTION WITH OCTOBER 1-6, MOSCOW MEETING OF UN ASSOCIATIONS IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF OCTOBER 17. FOLLOWING IS KIM'S ACCOUNT:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 08126 171103Z

2. ORIGINAL DECISION TO HOLD CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW WAS MADE BY UN ASSOCIATION WORLD FEDERATION LEADERSHIP WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE THAT ROK ATTENDANCE MIGHT BECOME POLITICAL FOOTBALL. LEADERSHIP SECURED ADVANCE SOVIET ASSURANCE THAT FULL ROK DELEGATION WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND. JUST BEFORE CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, SOVIETS BEGAN TO BACKPEDAL. WHEN VISAS WERE NOT PROVIDED BY SOVIET EMBASSY TOKYO, KIM TELEPHONED UN ASSOCIATION LEADERS IN MOSCOW AND ELSEWHERE (A TOTAL OF SIX TIMES) AND KEPT THEM ADVISED OF PROGRESS. THEY, IN TURN, KEPT PRESSURE ON SOVIETS, AND AGREED WITH KIM NOT TO LET THE ASSEMBLY BEGIN UNTIL THE ROK DELEGATION RECEIVED VISAS. ONLY AFTER VISAS WERE ISSUED FOR THREE OF ORIGINAL SIX DELEGATION MEMBERS DID ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP PERMIT ASSEMBLY TO CONVENE.

3. AFTER ARRIVING MOSCOW, KIM PROBED FOR REASONS FOR INITIAL DENIAL OF VISAS. HE WAS TOLD THAT PUTATIVE REASON FOR DENIAL WAS ROK ROLE IN BLOCKING VIETNAMESE UN MEMBERSHIP AND UNSC REFUSAL TO CONSIDER UN MEMBERSHIP FOR ROK. ACTUAL REASON APPARENTLY WAS PRC AND DPRK DISPLEASURE ALTHOUGH PRC AND NORTH KOREA DID NOT HAVE DELEGATIONS AT CONFERENCE. ULTIMATE ISSUANCE OF VISAS WAS RESULT OF UN FEDERATION LEADERSHIP PRESSURE RATHER THAN INDICATION OF SOVIET INTEREST IN IMPROVING CONTACT WITH ROK.

4. NONETHELESS, EVENTS AT MOSCOW MAY HAVE VERY MODESTLY IMPROVED OPPORTUNITIES FOR ROK-SOVIET CONTACT. AFTER ARRIVING IN MOSCOW, KIM BECAME LEADING CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION AS AN OFFICIAL OF UN FEDERATION. SOVIETS REACTED WITH HORROR AT PROSPECT OF PUBLICITY ATTENDANT TO HIS ELECTION, WHICH WAS VIRTUALLY ASSURED, AND WENT TO LENGTH OF THREATENING HIM WITH BODILY HARM UNLESS HE WITHDREW CANDIDACY. HE REFUSED TO YIELD TO THREATS, BUT OFFERED TO WITHDRAW CANDIDACY IF HE COULD GET DIRECT ASSURANCES FROM SOMEONE OF AUTHORITY THAT ROK-SOVIET RELATIONS WOULD BE IMPROVED THEREBY. HE WAS GIVEN SUCH ASSURANCE BY HIS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE ESCORT, BUT BEFORE HE COULD GET AUTHORITATIVE ASSURANCES HE SOUGHT, ROK DELEGATION PREMATURELY ANNOUNCED THE WITHDRAWAL OF HIS CANDIDACY. DESPITE LACK OF AUTHORITATIVE ASSURANCES, SOVIET TREATMENT OF ROK DELEGATION BECAME EXTREMELY CORDIAL AFTER CANDIDACY WAS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 08126 171103Z

WITHDRAWN AND AS ROK SPEECHES REVEALED ABSENCE OF ROK VINDICTIVENESS TOWARD SOVIET MACHINATIONS.

5. KIM'S CONTACTS WITH SOVIETS WERE LIMITED TO MIDDLE AND LOW-LEVEL SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES PEOPLE (HE DID NOT SEE DIMITRI PETROV, FOR EXAMPLE, WHO HE SAID HE KNEW WELL FROM HIS COLLEGE DAYS AT HARVARD, BUT WHOM HE WAS UNAWARE NOW HELD IMPORTANT ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FAR-EAST DIRECTOR POST). SOVIET

ACADEMICIANS KIM CAME IN CONTACT WITH WERE UNIVERSALLY CRITICAL OF NORTH KOREANS, WHOM THEY DENEGRATED AS UNBENDING DOGMATISTS AND CRUDE BOORS. THEY SEEMED VERY WELL-INFORMED ABOUT EVENTS IN ROK THROUGH NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS. SOME EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VISITING ROK BUT SAID DPRK ATTITUDE WOULD EFFECTIVELY BLOCK SUCH VISITS. (KIM REFERRED TO AN ABORTIVE ATTEMPT BY HARLAN CLEVELAND WHILE HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO GET A SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES MEMBER TO SOUTH KOREA SURREPTIOUSLY ON A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT AS EXEMPLIFYING KIND OF CONTACT WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED INITIALLY BEFORE ANY REAL IMPROVEMENT IN ROK-SOVIET RELATIONS WAS LIKELY.)

6. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF QUERY ABOUT IMPOLITIC NEWS ARTICLE IN SEOUL PRESS ATTRIBUTED TO MEMBER OF ROK DELEGATION AND ALLEGING THAT KIM HAD PROPOSED ROK-USSR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN A SPEECH IN MOSCOW, KIM SAID HE HAD NOT MADE SUCH A PROPOSAL AND STORY WAS IN ERROR. HE ATTRIBUTED THE STORY TO BUSINESSMAN DELEGATION MEMBER, WHO HE SAID MISUNDERSTOOD KIM'S SPEECH BECAUSE HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ENGLISH VERY WELL AND ADDITIONALLY WAS NOT VERY POLITICALLY SOPHISTICATED. KIM SAID HE HAD WINCED WHEN HE SAW THE STORY, RECOGNIZING IT WOULD PROBABLY DELAY IMPROVEMENT IN ROK-USSR RELATIONS IF IT WAS PUBLICIZED, BUT DID NOT WANT TO WRITE LETTER TO EDITOR CORRECTING IT BECAUSE SOURCE WAS A FRIEND OF HIS WHO WOULD BE EMBARRASSED.

COMMENT: MOFA (KIM YUN TAEK, EAST EUROPE DIVISION CHIEF) HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN FACILITATING CONTACTS WITH USSR AND UNDERSTANDING OF IMPORTANCE OF SECRECY IF SOVIETS ARE TO BE INDUCED TO RESPOND. IMPROVEMENT OF RELTIONS WITH SOVIETS WOULD CLEARLY DISCOMFIT NORTH KOREANS AND COULD WELL CAUSE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SEOUL 08126 171103Z

THEM TO TRIM THEIR SAILS. EMBASSY CONVERSATIONS WITH U.S. AND KOREAN SCHOLARS WHO HAVE BEEN TO MOSCOW RECENTLY (KIM YONG-SIN AND KIM SANG-JUN) INDICATE SOVIET INTEREST IN SUCH CONTACT BUT UNWILLINGNESS TO TRUST ROK DISCRETION.  
SNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, VISAS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SEOUL08126  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750360-1055  
**From:** SEOUL  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751042/aaaablil.tel  
**Line Count:** 159  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 SEOUL 7641  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ROK CONTACTS WITH THE USSR-UN ASSOCIATION FEDERATION  
**TAGS:** PFOR, KS, UR, UN, (KIM SANG-JUN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006